

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:85
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
SOIL HEALTH OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has ever been undertaken on the soil health of agricultural lands especially in agricultural based States;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) if not, whether any action is proposed to be taken in that regard in the near future;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been evaluating the long Term effects of fertilizer use on soil health and its productivity through its All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long Term Fertilizer Experiments' spread over 18 centres located at various State Agricultural Universities in the country. The study has revealed that intensive cropping involving high inputs and high yielding varieties results in decline in soil health and productivity due to deficiencies of certain macro and micro elements. The deficiencies arise due to removal of nutrients at rates higher than their replenishment. The Council is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to restore soil fertility. Besides, inclusion of legumes in cropping sequences is also being advocated.

(c)to(e): Not Applicable.